

The Israel Government

BY JAMES G. DEWITT

PERHAPS the most urgent political issue facing American foreign policy today is that of resolving the exact nature of this nation's relationship to the Zionist state of Israel. This is an especially timely issue now in light of the increasing pressures being brought to bear today upon the United States government for all-out military commitment to the Zionist state by American Zionists, who favor Israel with their primary loyalty.

Now, in coming to terms with the political issue of Zionism, as patriotic Americans whose first loyalty is to America, we would do well to study and investigate Zionism in general and the state of Israel in particular. With such study in mind, let us be specific and ask ourselves the question: is the form of today's Israeli government constitutional or communist? Our answer to this question will be an important one, especially as Zionists in America would very much like to involve the U. S. militarily on the side of Israel, against the Arab states, under the pretext of "fighting communism" in the Middle East.

The first part of our question — whether or not Israel has a constitutional form of government — is easy enough to answer. The Zionist state of Israel is *not* a constitutional state, for the simple reason that Israel does not have a constitution. However, as far back as 1948, the year of the inception

of Israel, a constitution had in fact been drawn up and proposed; but that proposed constitution has never been adopted due to the inability of Israeli leaders to agree on the basic relationship of religion to the state. In contrast, our American government, as we all know, has always been a government of constitutional contract, dedicated from its beginnings two hundred years ago to the principles of life, liberty, and property for American citizens. Moreover, our constitutional tradition clearly guarantees religious liberty, a condition not explicitly insured in Israel.

Now that we know that Israel's government is not a constitutional one, let us examine the politics of the Zionist state to see if we can determine what the nature of its form of government actually is, and thereby answer the second part of our question: is the Israeli government communist?

First of all, virtually all of the various political parties in Israel trace their origins back to the *kibbutz* movement in Palestine, which predated even the founding of the state of Israel itself in 1948. The *kibbutz* movement has served as the main source of leadership personnel for numerous Israeli political groups, as well as being the source of basic Israeli ideology.

Now, the *kibbutz* movement is made up of a network of collective settlements all over Israel. In these various *kibbutzim*, hundreds or even thousands

of men and women live together in collective communities. They live in military-style barracks and wear uniforms. The youngsters are kept separate from their parents from infancy and trained from an early age to become militant Zionists. No wages are paid, and all property is owned collectively. Members of a *kibbutz* live there voluntarily.

Indeed, these Israeli *kibbutzim* are the only volunteer collective communities in the world. While similar social experiments have been attempted by Utopian dreamers from time to time, even here in America, none have ever been successful in the Western world. Even in Soviet Russia and Red China collectivisation was achieved only by coercion and terrorism, not by any means voluntarily, as in Israel. Thus, the Israeli *kibbutz* movement can be said to be made up of the only truly spontaneous, home-grown communist societies in the world. Communal living, collective property, breakdown of the family unit: these are basic tenets of Marxist socialism actualized into reality. With its voluntary, government-subsidised *kibbutz* movement, Israel has put Marxism into practice.

Why is it, we must ask ourselves, that Zionist Jews are the only people in history to have actually accepted this communist-type society? Perhaps it is an outgrowth of their centuries of self-imposed close-quarters ghetto living, their historical aversion to assimilation into other societies, and their consequent ingrown world outlook. Interestingly enough, Karl Marx, the father of communism, was himself a product of this ghetto background, for Marx was born of a Jewish family. This in itself, is a fact of salient significance which cannot be over-estimated in our study of the origin and nature of the *kibbutz* movement in Israel and the consequent politics of the Zionist state.

As might be expected, the communal nature of basic Israeli society has pro-

duced an ideologically homogeneous political climate in Israel. Virtually all of the political parties are extreme left-wing by our standards. There are many avowed Marxist, radical socialist, and laborite parties which constitute the governing coalition in Israel. In addition, Israel has two open Communist parties, each of which have elected representatives sitting in the Israeli *Knesset*, or parliament. In fact, Israel is the only state in the Middle-East having legal Communist parties. In the June, 1970 issue of *Commentary*, organ of the American Jewish Committee, Shlomo Avineri, chairman of the department of political science at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, wrote:

There are probably more Marxists in Israel than in the whole of the Arab world . . . in most Arab countries (including Egypt) Communist parties are outlawed and individual Communists rot in jail, while Israel is *blessed* with two Communist parties, both of them represented in the Knesset. [Italics mine—JGD]

As an interesting contrast to that leading Zionist's revealing statement, *U. S. News & World Report* in its July 6, 1970 issue reported that four hundred Reds were recently jailed in Syria, and two hundred Reds jailed in Iraq—both of these are Arab countries which outlaw Communist parties. The lesson for us in all this is an important one, especially as Zionists in America are even now using all of their powerful influence in our Nation to involve the U. S. in their Israeli war, in an effort which would supposedly be to "fight Arab communism" in the Middle East.

As a logical result of its Marxist politics, the Israeli government maintains the most cordial of relationships with the government of the Soviet Union. As evidence of this close tie, *The Chicago Tribune* of June 9, 1970 reported a statement made in Haifa, Israel by David Ben-Gurion, first Israeli prime min-

ister, in which Ben-Gurion told students:

I am convinced the Soviet Union does not seek the destruction of Israel... We must never forget that the Soviet Union strongly supported the formation of Israel and recognized the state as soon as I announced its creation on May 15, 1948. Russia supplied us with arms that helped us survive our war of independence.

Not only did Soviet Russia supply Israel with arms twenty years ago, but according to a story in the May 10, 1970 issue of the *New Orleans Times Picayune*:

The United Nations indicated... Israel is flying Soviet-built MIG jet planes against Syria... one observation post saw 'three MIG17 aircraft with Israeli national markings' cross the cease fire lines... The observers are convinced 'that these are Russian MIGs' flying for the Israeli air force.

More than this, as an indication of the close party-to-party connection between Israeli Communists and Soviet Communists, the February 25th issue of *The South African Jewish Times* featured an article headlined "U.S.S.R. Would Never Support Nasser In A War On The Jewish State: Kremlin Said To Have Given Assurance To Israeli Communists." Following that headline, the paper reported details of a "very warm reception" given Israeli Reds during a visit to Moscow. The two parties met "in a friendly atmosphere and in the spirit of proletarian internationalism." The story went on to reveal:

that Soviet leaders understand and appreciate the situation in Israel, where the Communist Party is officially represented in Parliament, has its own press, and may... influence Government policy. No such situation exists in Egypt. Hence the Israeli Communists were treated as real friends and people of importance.

Such an intimate sub rosa relationship between Israel and Soviet Russia should

not be an unexpected state of affairs, since ideologically there is virtually no difference between the politics of Zionist Israel and the Soviet. Moreover, many immigrants to Israel over the years have been Jews from Russia. What's more, historically the Zionist movement developed parallel to the Bolshevik movement in Russia under the Czars. By the same token, many leading Soviet Communists have been Jews, from the time of Lev Bronstein (popularly known as "Leon Trotsky") and the 1917 Soviet Revolution, right on up to the present day. Similarly, as another significant key to understanding the background of current Soviet-Israeli relations, *The Canadian Jewish News* for November 13th, 1964 featured a revealing story concerning the present secretary general of the Soviet Communist Party, Leonid Brezhnev, "whose wife," they cited, "is Jewish and whose children consider themselves Jews..."

Thus, in summary, the evidence we have cited leads us to the conclusion that the government of Israel, like that of the Soviet Union, is communist, both ideologically and practically.

But above and beyond the recognition of the communist nature of the Israeli government, what looms large to America today is the fact that the nation of *kibbutz* dwellers now stands in possession of sizable physical warmaking power, including, in all probability nuclear weaponry, according to *U. S. News & World Report* of May 18, 1970. Nor must we soon forget that Israeli war policy has already involved the United States, with the unprovoked Israeli air attack June 8, 1967 upon the American communications ship *USS Liberty* off the Egyptian coast, resulting in at least thirty nine U. S. sailors killed and seventy-five wounded. Again, in January, 1970, according to columnist Jack Anderson, an Israeli bomb, dropped by a U. S.-built Phantom fighter-bomber, exploded near the Cairo-American school in the Cairo, Egypt

suburbs, coming close to blowing up two hundred American school children there.

Yes, Zionism is a political issue facing America, and facing it right now. Looking back, in the past twenty years America has enmeshed itself in two major land wars in Asia in direct contradiction to our national interest and to the expert advice of our leading military men. In Korea and Vietnam we have sacrificed a total of nearly 100,000 American lives, not to mention the countless number of wounded. The question that we patriotic Americans must ask ourselves and our representatives in government is: are we to be-

come entangled in yet another debilitating land war in Asia, this time as "cat's paw" to Zionist expansionism? And, by that same token, how many American lives is "communist" Israel worth?

THE AUTHOR

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Fat Presidents and Prosperity

UNLESS President Nixon gains a few pounds, we're headed for trouble. Even a cursory examination of U.S. history will show that we had wars and depressions when the presidency was occupied by skinny and nervous men. And, it is undeniable that we had good times when we had powerfully built presidents who liked beefsteaks and were not worried about their figures.

Consider the administrations of Presidents William McKinley and Theodore Roosevelt. It was McKinley who put the United States on the gold standard in 1900. And, it was a thin, esthetic-looking and sickly president who took the country off the gold standard in 1934.

Theodore Roosevelt's rotund figure is known to all Americans through old movie newsreels shown in television documentaries. It was the reserve power of his hefty build (about 230 pounds) that enabled him to lead his troopers up San Juan Hill. Can you

imagine the skinny Woodrow Wilson leading a cavalry charge? He didn't even know how to ride a horse!

Conversely, all our national troubles have been at times when we had skinny men as presidents. Lincoln is a classic example. The Civil War happened during his administration. During World War I we had the emaciated-looking (and non-horse riding) Woodrow Wilson. He was sick most of the time and his wife ran the country. But she was skinny, too. During World War II we had the sickly Franklin D. Roosevelt. He died in office.

It is noteworthy that President Nixon is neither slim nor fat. A witness before the Federal Trade Commission testified that President Nixon is on a low-cholesterol diet. And, it is rumored that his doctor keeps telling him to avoid overeating. (Which is standard advice given by doctors!) If he succeeds in his advice, we will have a skinny Nixon and trouble!

—KENNETH JOHNS